

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 NEAE-00 H-02 A-01 /037 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3950

UNCLAS AMMAN 1443

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NP

SUBJ: U.S. CORONATION DELEGATION-AMMAN PRESS STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO PRESS MADE BY PHILIP W. BUCHEN, COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT AND SPECIAL AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL FOR THE CORONATION OF KING BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV UPON ARRIVAL OF U.S. CORONATION DELEGATION IN AMMAN FEBRUARY 26:

2. QUOTE: "A DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED STATES HAS JUST COMPLETED ITS PARTICIPATION IN CEREMONIES AT KATHMANDU, NEPAL, FOR THE CORONATION OF KING BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV, FEBRUARY 23-25.

I HAD THE HONOR AND PLEASURE OF SERVING AS PRESIDENT FORD'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO HEAD THE DELEGATION. IN ADDITION TO MY WIFE AND ME, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WERE AMBASSADOR AND MRS. WILLIAM I. CARGO, SENATOR AND MRS. CHARLES H. PERCY, CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. L.H. FOUNTAIN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CAROL C. LAISE, MR. AND MRS. JAMES E. BROWN, MRS. MARQUITA MAYTAG AND AMBASSADOR AND MRS. L. DOUGLAS HECK.

THE CHARACTER AND SIZE OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO  
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NEPAL FOR THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF KING BIRENDRA'S

CORONATION REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THAT NATION AND TO ITS CONTINUING INDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT. HIS MAJESTY AND THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL RESPONDED TO OUR VISIT WITH WARM AND ENTHUSIASTIC GREETINGS AND WITH THE MOST CORDIAL HOSPITALITY.

THE OCCASION PROVIDED ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR DELEGATION WITH A RARE AND FASCINATING OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE FIRST-HAND CORONATION CEREMONIES IN THE HINDU TRADITION AND TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL AND VISITORS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE IN CELEBRATING THIS HISTORIC AND COLORFUL EVENT. THE CITY OF KATHMANDU IN ITS BEAUTIFUL SETTING WAS RICHLY ADORNED WITH FLORAL DECORATIONS, FLAGS OF ALL THE VISITING NATIONS, COMMEMORATIVE BANNERS AND DISPLAYS, AND ENDLESS STRINGS OF MULTI-COLORED LIGHTS. CROWDS ON EACH DAY LINED THE STREETS AND ROADWAYS TO GREET WITH HEART-WARMING APPLAUSE OUR DELEGATION AS WE TRAVELLED THROUGH THE CITY AND NEARBY TOWNS. THE GREATEST CROWDS APPEARED AT THE TIME OF THE OFFICIAL PARADE WHICH FEATURED A TRAIN OF ELEPHANTS BEARING THE NEWLY-CROWNED KING AND HIS RETINUE.

THE KING AND QUEEN, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, AND OFFICIALS OF THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT GRACIOUSLY ENTERTAINED THE DELEGATIONS FROM 57 NATIONS AT A VARIETY OF SOCIAL EVENTS, INCLUDING A DINNER AT THE PALACE AND TWO RECEPTIONS IN THE PALACE GARDENS. AT THE INVITATION OF KING BIRENDRA, SENATOR PERCY AND I ALSO HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF A PRIVATE MEETING IN THE KING'S OFFICE ON THE LAST AFTERNOON OF OUR VISIT. THIS MEETING GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TO THE KING A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD AND ALLOWED SENATOR PERCY AND ME TO HEAR FROM HIS MAJESTY THE PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS HE HAD FOR HIS COUNTRY AND TO EXPRESS THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE FUTURE OF NEPAL AND IN PEACEFUL RELATIONS AMONG ALL NATIONS OF THE ASIAN SUB-CONTINENT". UNQUOTE.  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, NP, JO, US, (BUCHEN, PHILIP W)  
**To:** KATHMANDU STATE  
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